(c) Total quantity exploited till 2005-06 was 2.10 MMT of crude oil and 18.675 BCM of natural gas.

Supply of natural gas to North Eastern Region

*228. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil PSUs are paid compensation for supply of natural gas to North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rates at which natural gas is supplied to North Eastern Region as compared to other parts of the country and whether they are for unrestricted quantity;

(d) the amount of compensation paid to different oil PSUs during 2005-06 and expected to be paid during current fiscal; and

(e) how it is ensured that natural gas supplied to this region is not passed on to neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The difference between the producer's price and consumer's price of gas supplied in the North Eastern Region under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) is reimbursed to Oil India Limited (OIL) which is sourcing the gas. Such reimbursement was being made from the gas pool account till 31.3.2006 and is being made from the Government budget thereafter.

(c) The prices at which APM gas is being supplied to different consumers in the North Eastern Region and a comparison with the rest of the country is given below. These prices are linked to a calorific value of 10,000 kilo calories/cubic metre.

Category of Consumers	North Eastern Region (Rs./MSCM*)	Rest of the Country (Rs. MSCM*)
Power and Fertilizer Sector	1920	3200
Small Consumers** and City Gas Distribution Projects	2304	3840

*Thousand Standard Cubic Metres

**Receiving supplies upto 0.05 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD)

About 5.95 MMSCMD of APM gas is supplied in the North Eastern Region.

(d) A sum of Rs. 121.10 crores has been paid to OIL from the Gas Pool account towards the APM gas supplied at discounted price in North East Region during 2005-06. The expected amount to be received by OIL during 2006-07 is around Rs. 150 Crores.

(e) APM gas in the North Eastern Region is supplied by OIL and gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL). OIL has informed that the gas produced by them in the North Eastern Region is entirely sold in this region. GAIL has informed that they supply gas to the designated allocated customers in the region.

Entry of ONGC into retail sector

*229. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked ONGC to abandon its plan to get into the retail business;

(b) if so, the details of this ONGC scheme;

(c) what was the expenditure incurred by ONGC on this proposal so far;

(d) what were the reasons for ONGC going in for retail marketing; and

(e) the steps proposed to enquire into the expenditure in this regard by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been granted authorization for marketing of Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Government in the Resolution of 8th March, 2002. ONGC envisaged setting up 1100 Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country to take benefit of complete value chain integration in line with such models followed by